

BOMB THEORY IS REJECTED AS CAUSE OF FIRE

Part of Canada's Magnificent Parliament Building at Ottawa Was Destroyed Last Night and Flames Were Said to Have Followed a Tremendous Explosion

LIBRARY AND TWO WINGS ONLY WERE SAVED

Five Persons Are Known to Have Perished and it is Feared That Two Others Lost Their Lives—Montreal Sent Aid by Means of a Special Train

Ottawa, Feb. 4.—Two women and three men are known to have perished in a fire which swept the central portion of Canada's magnificent Parliament buildings last night and early to-day, destroying the Chamber of Commons and the Senate. Several others are reported missing, and it is feared they are buried in the ruins.

All night long firemen, police and soldiers fought to save the \$6,000,000 structure. They succeeded in saving the beautiful library building and the east and west wings of the main edifice.

Immediately after the fire started, the report spread that it was caused by an incendiary bomb. The fire started in the reading room of the House of Commons, and several who were present at the time asserted it was preceded by an explosion, which knocked down several. The bomb theory, however, was rejected to-day by Colonel Sherwood, commissioner of the dominion police, who insisted that the conflagration was accidental.

Among those reported missing are B. B. Law, the member from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and J. B. Laplant, assistant clerk of the House of Commons.

The known dead are: Mme. Bray, wife of H. A. Bray of Quebec, and Mme. Morin, wife of Louis Morin of St. Joseph De Beauce, Quebec, who were visiting Parliament as the guests of Mme. Sevigny, wife of Speaker Sevigny; Robert Fanning, a waiter; Arch DesJardins, a Dominion policeman, and A. DesJardins, a plumber.

The cause of the fire can only be determined by an investigation. The financial loss is difficult to estimate, but the contents of the building were of great value.

Members of the Parliament, spectators in the lower house, government employees and others who were in the building narrowly escaped death or injury. Within a few minutes after the fire began, corridors were filled with smoke, and at many points walls of flame barred progress. There were many doors to the great building, but since the outbreak of the war all except the main portals have been closed to safeguard the legislators. This precaution made escape more difficult and probably was responsible for the death of Mme. Bray and Mme. Morin in one of the rooms of the speaker's suite.

Mme. Sevigny saved her two children by dropping them into a fireman's safety net, and then leaped to safety herself. Another of her guests, Mme. Dussault, saved herself in the same way.

Among those severely burned was Minister of Agriculture Burrell, who fell insensible after plunging through a curtain of fire and groping his way along a smoke-filled corridor.

Legislators who were in the building experienced great difficulty in groping their way through smoke-filled corridors. Several fled through windows and down ladders to the street.

The entire fire-fighting equipment of Ottawa was unable to cope with the flames, and Mayor Martin of Montreal, a member of Parliament, at 10 o'clock ordered the Montreal fire brigade to this city. Half an hour after the fire was discovered, the glass roof over the Commons chamber fell, and it appeared that the handsome Gothic structure was doomed.

"Fire! Run for your lives!" When Speaker Sevigny took the chair and opened the session of the House at 8 o'clock only about 50 members were in their seats. A discussion relating to fisheries was proceeding, when the decorum of the chamber was broken by a messenger, who dashed into the room shouting: "Fire! Run for your lives!"

The flames had developed so suddenly that although they started not more than 30 feet from the chamber, members were driven back by smoke and flames when they sought an exit through the two main doors. Police guards were on duty in the library, reading rooms and corridors which surround the commons on all four sides.

When the doors of the chamber were opened the great room filled almost instantly with smoke and the legislators rushed for the doors. Spectators in the gallery, panic-stricken, stampeded for the exits at the same time. Attendees came stumbling through the smoke-filled corridors from all parts of the building.

Minister of Agriculture Burrell was overcome as he made his way through the thick of the smoke and fell just in front of the postoffice. He was picked up by Robert Rogers, minister of public works, J. O. Reid, minister of customs, and Pierre Blom, secretary of state. It was found that while his injuries were serious he will recover.

Mr. Burrell had been working in his

REFUSE TO CALL LUSITANIA LOSS AN ILLEGAL ACT

Germans Are Willing Merely to Express Regret for Loss of American Lives, According to Information Coming to the Associated Press

GERMAN CONCESSION REACHES LIMIT

One New Phase Is Included in Formulation of Proposed Note of Regret, but the Word "Illegal" Does Not Appear in It—Grave Situation Arises

Berlin, via London, Feb. 4.—Information reaching the Associated Press to-day indicates that under no circumstances will Germany admit that the sinking of the Lusitania was an illegal act. The new instructions forwarded to Ambassador Von Bernstorff, according to this information, contains simply one phrase of a new formulation of a proposed note of regret for the sinking of the Lusitania.

The suggested sentence is short—only eight words—and does not contain the word "illegal." It represents the extreme limit of Germany's concessions in the Lusitania case.

TURKS EVACUATE BIG STRONGHOLD

Trustworthy Source of Information Has It That Erzerum on Caucasus Front Has Been Given Up to Russians.

Petrograd, via London, Feb. 4.—The Novoe Vremya asserts that it has received from a trustworthy source information to the effect that the Turks have evacuated Erzerum, one of their principal strongholds on the Caucasian front.

ENGLISH COLLIER SUNK.

Was Attacked by German Zeppelin in North Sea.

London, Feb. 4.—The collier Franz Fischer, which left Hartlepool Monday afternoon, was sunk at sea by one of the raiding Zeppelins which visited England. Thirteen of the crew, including the captain, were drowned.

Three men were saved. The Franz Fischer was a captured enemy vessel employed as a coasting collier. Charles Hillier, one of the rescued, who was a native of Newfoundland, described the disaster as follows:

"About 10:30 o'clock Tuesday night we heard a noise overhead such as we had never heard before. Presently a Zeppelin came right on top of us and dropped a bomb which fell near the engine room. A tremendous explosion followed, the vessel remaining aloft only two minutes.

"There was no time to launch life boats. We all went under with the ship. When I came up again I caught hold of a life belt. After swimming for some time I came across the chief engineer and the steward, who had also managed to get hold of life belts. By their aid we kept afloat for an hour.

"It was pitiful to hear the cries of some of the other men who had come to the surface after the disappearance of the vessel, but soon their cries ceased and we concluded they were all drowned. Meanwhile we continued shouting for help. When almost exhausted, a Belgian steamer heard us, lowered a boat and picked us up. Subsequently we were transferred to a mine sweeper and landed."

ZEPPELIN IN THE SEA.

German Aircraft in Trouble Reported By Trawler.

London, Feb. 4.—A fishing trawler reported yesterday to the naval authorities that she had seen a German Zeppelin in the North Sea in a sinking condition, it was stated in an official statement given out last night.

A Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam Wednesday reported that the coast guard on the Dutch island of Ameland in the North Sea sighted a Zeppelin which was flying low, probably having lost her bearings in the fog. The Zeppelin was bombarded by the guards it was added, more than 50 shots being fired at her, some of which it was believed hit the airship, which ultimately disappeared to the northward.

ITALY CALLS MORE MEN.

Those Born in 1881 Who Belong to Cavalry and Others.

Rome, via Paris, Feb. 4.—All the men born in 1881 who belong to the cavalry have been recalled to the colors. Men born in 1882, 1883 and 1884 and belonging to the engineer regiments and men born in 1885 and belonging to the engineer regiments on the lakes also have been recalled.

NOTABLE SUCCESSES BY AUSTRIAN AIRMEN

Notable successes for airmen in raids on the Albanian port of Durazzo are reported by the Austrian admiral. Three attacks by air on this important allied base between Jan. 25 and Feb. 1 are recorded. The Italian base at Avlona, Albania, also was attacked by Austrian aviators on Feb. 2.

The eastern war theatre, like the western and the Balkan, has in recent days been the scene of numerous aerial operations. Vienna reports the bombardment of Buzacas in Galicia by a Russian squadron and Russian raids further north on the Volynia, while Austrian airmen appear equally active. A second Zeppelin raid on Saloniki, attempted on Wednesday, was frustrated by the fire of allied batteries, according to an Athens dispatch.

Reports of infantry operations of importance from the main war fronts are lacking. Vienna claims that progress for the Austrians at Tolmino is being held by sapping operations.

GERMAN PRIZE CREW LEFT ALONE ON APPAM

British Prisoners Climbed Over the Rail Last Night and Landed on American Soil After Long Discussions Between Ship Owners and British Embassy.

Newport News, Va., Feb. 4.—Nineteen days of ceaseless vigil for the short-handed German prize crew aboard the former British liner Appam ended last night when the last of more than 400 British prisoners climbed over the ship's side to liberty on American soil. And for the first time since Lieutenant Berg and his twenty-two men boarded the liner from the raider which captured her on the night of January 15, most of the Germans slept peacefully with but a few of their number on watch.

All British subjects and the one nationalized American, G. A. Tagliarini, quit the ships leaving the prize commander with his crew and the twenty Germans who had been prisoners on the Appam, including three women.

Captain Harrison and the Appam's British crew left their vessel only after a sharp controversy between agents of the owners, Elder, Dempster & Co., and the British embassy at Washington. The company desired its men to remain on the liner to support the claim that the Germans forfeit their prize by remaining in neutral waters. But the embassy insisted that every British subject depart as soon as permission had been granted by the prize commander on the demand of the United States government.

Plans were changed every hour during the afternoon and evening, but the embassy's authority prevailed finally and a special boat was provided to take the Appam's crew of 155 to Norfolk to await the sailing of a steamer for New York to-night. Meanwhile the 114 passengers and the 136 British seamen captured with the other seven ships taken by the raider Panga or Moewe, had been transferred ashore by steamers. Five of the seamen, one Englishman and four Americans of the crew of the Clan MacTavish, all wounded, were removed to a hospital. All the others with most of the passengers, were placed aboard river steamers for Norfolk. An Old Dominion liner was being held at her dock to take them to New York.

The British government is caring for all passengers and crews of the captured freighter and will send them on to England aboard the first available ship. The Elder-Dempster company will arrange for the return of the Appam's crew. Lieutenant Berg, commanding the Appam, talked for the first time last night of his cruise. He ridiculed the suggestion that his raider was the new fruit trader Panga, insisting that she was the Moewe. He confirmed the accounts of the capture of the seven English vessels and declared he had nothing to say regarding his future plans.

When asked how his crew felt about their enforced idleness, the lieutenant squared his shoulders and growled: "Ah, my crew," he exclaimed. "They are artists. They take their work as it comes."

Apologizing for any seeming brevity in his remarks, the lieutenant said he spoke as fully as he dared, owing to his extraordinary position.

LANSING INCLINES TO TREATY PRECEDENT

Secretary of State Indicates That Prussian-American Agreement Governs the Appam Case.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 4.—Secretary Lansing indicated today that the United States had decided to hold that the Prussian-American treaty governs the case of the Appam, as Germany contends, and that all that remained to be decided was the determination of the application of the treaty terms.

ATTACK CARRANZA FORCES.

Forced to Retreat—Railroads Cut and Wires Down.

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 4.—A large force of bandits attacked a small detachment of government troops on the coast guard on the Mexican Central rail road about 100 miles south of El Paso, last yesterday, according to advices received here. The garrison was compelled to retire, it was said. The railroad has been cut and the telegraph lines torn down, destroying communication with Juarez. The garrison at Villa Ahumada, about 50 miles south of Juarez, is on the way to reinforce the Carranza troops at Moctezuma, and the troops were also sent from Juarez last yesterday.

Willing to Please.

A certain college president wore side whiskers. Whenever he suggested moving them there was a division of opinion in the family. One morning he entered his wife's dressing room, razor in hand, with his right cheek shaved smooth. "How do you like it, dear?" he asked. "If you think it looks well I will shave the other side too."—Facts and Fancies.

BEACH HOTELS BURNED

Overbrook House at Atlantic City Destroyed This Morning and Five Persons Lost Their Lives, While Eight Others Were Seriously Injured

NANTASKET BEACH HAS \$150,000 LOSS

Because of Heavy Snow the Firemen Could Not Get Their Apparatus Up the Hill to the Rockland House at the Latter Place

Atlantic City, N. J., Feb. 4.—Five persons lost their lives and eight others were seriously injured this morning in a fire which destroyed the Overbrook hotel at the corner of Pacific and Mount Vernon avenues. Several of the injured are expected to die.

The fire is believed to have started in the kitchen, and soon after the flames were discovered the entire building was wrapped in flames. There were but few guests in the hotel and most of them were aroused in time to escape, although many jumped from windows. The dead include the parents of Richard Mott, the proprietor of the hotel.

MANY SMALL FIRES WERE EXTINGUISHED AS HOTEL BURNED

Property Near Rockland House at Nantasket Beach Was Gravely Endangered—Cause of the Fire Has Not Been Determined.

Hull, Mass., Feb. 4.—The Rockland house, one of the largest hotels on Nantasket beach, was destroyed by a fire early to-day, with a loss of \$150,000. The only person in the building was the caretaker. The cause of the fire is not known.

SAVED MOTHER BUT LOST OWN LIFE IN BROOKLYN

Miss Caroline Tag Assisted Mrs. Casimir Tag to Neighboring Roof and Then Went Back and Perished with Her Sister and Four Other Women.

New York, Feb. 4.—Six women lost their lives in a fire which destroyed the home of Mrs. Casimir Tag in Brooklyn to-day. Mrs. Tag, who is the widow of the president of the German Savings bank, escaped, but her two daughters were among those who perished. One of the daughters, Caroline Tag, was awakened by the smoke. She telephoned the firemen and then assisted her mother through a third-story window to an adjoining roof, from which the firemen rescued her. The daughter then returned to arouse the others in the household and with the other five was trapped in the flames.

SERIOUS FIRE AT TROY.

Two Large Structures Destroyed with Loss of \$100,000.

Troy, N. Y., Feb. 4.—Fire of unknown origin destroyed two five-story structures in the business section of Troy last night, causing damage estimated at \$100,000. A. Soretti's jewelry store located at 274 River street, the Sample hat store at 272 and the Fretwell clothing store at 270 River street were the heaviest losers. A large quantity of furniture and house furnishings stored in the rear of 274 River street and owned by the Union Furniture company was consumed. Several other business places suffered loss from smoke and water and the building owned by the Knights of Columbus was threatened. Every available piece of fire fighting apparatus in the city was pressed into service and it was not until a late hour that the blaze was under control.

SIX MEN MISSING.

After Explosion in Plant of Craig Oil Co. at Toledo.

Toledo, O., Feb. 4.—An explosion followed by fire in the plant of the Craig Oil company here yesterday afternoon resulted in an estimated loss of nearly \$75,000 and crippling of the plant for several weeks.

Six men who were missing when the fire broke out have been accounted for. There were 43 men in the plant when the explosion occurred. The cause has not been determined. Fourteen large oil tanks containing crude oil were destroyed. The office was wrecked.

Fireman A. J. Monomoe was seriously injured when one of the tanks blew up. Sixty tanks containing benzine and gasoline were saved through the employment of trenches in fighting the blaze.

TEACHERS' CONFERENCE HELD.

Caledonia County Assembly Was Held at St. Johnsbury.

St. Johnsbury, Feb. 4.—The teachers of Caledonia county met in convention here to-day. The meetings were held at the academy and there was a good attendance of the public at all of the different sessions. Supt. G. A. Jamieson of West Burke was in charge of the grammar department, Supt. B. B. Burbank of Barre, of the intermediate department, Miss Ella Wilmarth, principal of Lyndon academy, of the primary department, and the rural work was in charge of Supt. Harvey Burbank of Danville.

The first session began at 10 o'clock and the following subjects were taken up: Civics; Miss Caroline S. Woodruff of Bradford; English composition, Bert B. Burbank; reading, Supt. M. E. Daniels of Lyndonville. Leon W. Baxter, who has charge of the manual training in the St. Johnsbury public schools, gave a paper on this subject which he read before the New England teachers' convention last summer and Miss Marjorie Smith, domestic science teacher, of the public schools, gave a talk on the subject of school lunches.

In the second session formal grammar was discussed by Clarence H. Willey of Lyndonville; M. E. Daniels' subject was reading and the number work was taken up by Miss Beatrice Ranney and Supt. W. H. Young of St. Johnsbury. At the first afternoon session the subject was mathematics. Prin. O. D. Mathewson of Lyndonville gave a very able talk on the subject of equipment for secondary school work. The other subjects were: Mental Arithmetic, Miss Maud E. Harrington; Problem Solving, Miss Caroline S. Woodruff; The last session was devoted to discussions on questioning, by Principal Chaffee of Peacham academy; Games and Seat Work by B. B. Burbank, and English by Supt. Leonard D. Smith of Wells River.

The general meeting drew a large attendance and the program was varied so as to make it of great interest to all present. The orchestra and glee club of St. Johnsbury academy furnished music, and addresses were made by Mason S. Stone of Montpelier, state commissioner of education; Frank H. Brooks of St. Johnsbury and Rev. Arthur W. Hewitt of Plainfield, both members of the state board of education.

MANY SEEK REWARD.

For Capture of Murderer of J. Stewart Hamilton.

Keene, N. H., Feb. 4.—Seven claimants of the reward of \$1,000 offered by the Holbrook, Cabot and Rollins corporation, for the apprehension and delivery to the New Hampshire authorities of the murderer of J. Stewart Hamilton, appeared either in person or by counsel, before Judge Chamberlain in the superior court at the hearing yesterday, to substantiate their claim for the money, in all or in part. The evidence closed yesterday afternoon.

Among the claimants were Francis Hanrahan, a detective of Halifax, N. S., Milton Snowden of Boston, Luigi Bradio formerly of Brattleboro, Vt., Ralph Kirkwood of Brattleboro, Vt., David S. Carey of Brattleboro, Vt., George Wilson of Brattleboro, Vt., Frank O'Brien of Boston.

All except Bradio, who is in Italy, and Frank O'Brien, appeared in person and were examined by their counsel. Bradio and O'Brien were represented by counsel and either had witnesses or depositions to present to Judge Chamberlain. All told of the various parts they played in the apprehension of Wren, who was convicted of the murder in the Cheshire county superior court in 1913 and sentenced to life imprisonment at the state prison in Concord.

J. Stewart Hamilton was a boss for the Holbrook, Cabot and Rollins corporation, who were constructing a railroad in Hinsdale in 1913. Hamilton was clubbed to death on the night of Feb. 5 and the next day the corporation offered a reward of \$1,000 for the murderer's apprehension. Wren was arrested on Feb. 7 by Francis Hanrahan, at Halifax, N. S., and brought back to New Hampshire, tried and convicted. There were so many claimants to the reward that the corporation was unable to decide to whom it should go and asked the court to decide.

OPERATORS REFUSE DEMANDS

Made By Anthracite Miners for 20 Per Cent Wage Increase.

New York, Feb. 4.—The anthracite coal operators rejected here yesterday the demands of their miners for a 20 per cent increase in wages, complete recognition of the United Mine Workers of America, a two-year working agreement, an eight-hour day and changes in the methods of fixing wages.

The operators propose that if the differences cannot be settled by the "interested parties" themselves they be submitted to the board of conciliation provided for in the award of the anthracite coal strike commission of 1902. The miners' demands were formulated last September at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and were ratified last week by the United Mine Workers' convention at Indianapolis.

In reply to their employees signed by the heads of 19 anthracite companies and approved at their meeting yesterday, it is stated that to grant the wage increase would mean an advance to the consumer of 60 cents a ton for domestic sizes of anthracite. The operators declare that the anthracite industry is being conducted "on as low a margin of profit as is possible if the operators are to continue to serve the public."

CIGARETTE CARELESSLY THROWN

Was Probable Cause of Fire in "Movie" House at Montpelier.

Starting probably from a cigarette carelessly thrown into the entrance booth, fire damaged the Old Comique theatre building in Montpelier to-night to the extent of \$25, the loss being confined to the booth. It was after the last show in the theatre and patrons and attaches had gone home when the fire was discovered by a passerby. The firemen made short work of the fire. The property is insured in the Burlington Mutual Fire insurance company through the McAllister & Kent agency of Barre.

EXPECT CALL TO BE ACCEPTED

Barre Baptists Invite Rev. Burt J. Lehigh of Oswego, N. Y.

UNANIMOUS VOTE TAKEN LAST NIGHT

Rev. Mr. Lehigh Recently Preached as Candidate

Adherents of the First Baptist church met last evening and voted to extend a call to Rev. Burt J. Lehigh of Oswego, N. Y., to become pastor of the local church to succeed Rev. George H. Holt, who recently transferred to Corona, Cal. Deacon F. A. Hutchinson presided at the meeting and the question of filling the pulpit vacancy was thoroughly discussed before the motion to extend a call to Rev. Mr. Lehigh was finally acted upon. Unanimity prevailed on the motion to call the candidate mentioned and late last night a telegram was dispatched to the Oswego clergyman. A reply is expected within a few days.

It is said that Rev. Mr. Lehigh's acceptance of the call is practically assured. On a recent Sunday he conducted morning and evening services in the local church, preaching on both occasions and making a very favorable impression among the parishioners. Afterward he met the governing board of the church and at the conference he intimated that he would accept a call under certain conditions. It is understood that the conditions have been met.

Rev. Mr. Lehigh is 42 years old and has had a good deal of experience in the Baptist ministry. He has a wife and one child, a daughter, aged 14. Mrs. Lehigh's parents reside in Brookfield, having moved to Vermont from New York a few years since.

GOES TO GROTON CHURCH.

Rev. George B. Gould Resigns Pastorate of St. Albans Baptist Church.

St. Albans, Feb. 4.—Rev. George B. Gould, pastor of the Baptist church here, has tendered his resignation, the same to take effect on March 1, and he will go to the Baptist church in Groton. Dr. Gould has been pastor of the local church for four years.

RE-OPEN FEB. 8.

Goddard Students, Ill with Scarlet Fever, to Be Placed in Rented Building.

Four students who developed symptoms of scarlet fever three weeks ago and have been ill with the malady are to be removed from Goddard seminary to-morrow and sessions at the school will be resumed on the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 8, according to a statement issued to-day by Principal O. K. Hollister. The decision to re-open the seminary was reached at a conference of doctors, including the health officer, and the school authorities, which was held last evening.

The students who were detained at the seminary by the fever when the student body was excused late in January are all making favorable progress toward recovery. Those in authority on the hill have leased a house here in the city and thither the students will be moved sometime to-morrow to remain during the convalescent period, or until after all danger of their communicating the disease to others has passed. To-morrow night the health officer and his assistants will begin a thorough fumigation of the school buildings. The main building, the Thompson memorial and the alumni hall will be fumigated carefully. Principal Hollister stated to-day that every precautionary measure will be taken to rid the school buildings of any possibility of contagion.

Reports received from students of the seminary who have been at their homes since the school was closed do not indicate that any considerable number have come down with the malady, only four cases having developed outside the school thus far.

TOOK BULLET FROM HEAD.

Doctor Performed Serious Operation on Alleged Wife Slayer.

Quincy, Mass., Feb. 4.—After a most delicate surgical operation at the Quincy City hospital yesterday afternoon, a bullet was taken out of the head of Frank Colletti, charged with murdering his wife and attempting suicide in West Quincy, Jan. 20. The surgeons found it near the base of the skull close to the mastoid bone behind the right ear. Part of the bone had been badly smashed by the bullet and the brain had been slightly injured in one spot.

Colletti came out of the ether in fairly good shape, but his condition was said to be only fair.

TAKE UP NEW PROPOSITION

For Abolishing the Grade Crossing at Tabor's.

The Vermont public service commission held a session at the State House in Montpelier to-day on the question of establishing an underpass at the Tabor crossing between Barre and Montpelier. At previous sessions a proposition was presented, which was not considered entirely satisfactory, and the purpose of the session to-day was to take up consideration of a new proposition.

Clerks' Notice.

There will be a regular meeting of the R. C. L. P. A. local 241, Friday, Feb. 4, at 7:30 p. m. Large attendance requested. For order Miss Thelma Kesson, Red. Sec.